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A GUIDE TO MCGREGOR, Iowa

Compiled and Written by
The Federal Writers' Project
Works Progress Administration
State of Iowa

W.P.A.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Location: Clayton County, Iowa, on the Mississippi R., across from historic Prairie du Chien, Wis., and lying in Iowa's hilly N.E. regions.

Population: 1,299.

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Altitude: 627.

Railroad Station: Riverfront for Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific.

Highways: US 18 (W.), and State 13 (N. and W.).

Bridges: To Wis., across Mississippi, at Marquette, one m. N. (70c car and driver one way; \$1.15 for car and driver round trip; 10c each additional passenger).

Accommodations: Scenic Hotel, Main and A Sts., rates from \$1.25; Heights Hotel, McGregor Heights, open during summer season. Rates from \$1.25; cabins available at tourist parks on US 18 and State 13, near west city limits; McGregor Heights, and Ridgewood nearby, cabins for rent. Four restaurants, catfish dinners, advertised "The fish that swam this morning."

Boating: Two boat lines, rowboats and Diesel-powered craft accommodating 100 persons, outboard motor boats and large launches, available with guides at all times. Regular summer tours to Pontoon Bridge, US Fish Hatchery, Scrogum's Landing, Yellow River, Pulpit Rock, Prairie du Chien, Pike's Peak, and Pictured Rocks.

Fishing: More than 100 varieties of fish, from common gar to bass, Mississippi River and tributary streams. Fishing service; equipment and bait, 10c; rowboat, \$1 a day, guides provided.

Swimming: Undeveloped beach, N. limits, no guards or dressing rooms; Prairie du Chien, municipal pool, swimming trips arranged by ferry from McGregor.

Golf: Municipal nine-hole course, on scenic ridge overlooking the Mississippi (50c a day).

Hiking: Hills about city criss-crossed with unmarked trails.

Annual Events: American School of Wild Life Protection, McGregor Heights, Aug. (no entrance qualifications; fees, adults, \$5, children, \$2.50, two weeks term; single lectures, 25c).

THE TOWN

In a pocket in the high bluffs along the Mississippi River lies the town of McGregor. Crowded into a narrow ravine it is shadowed by towering ridges on the north and south. The main street leads directly to the river's bank and the others—usually short and steep—follow no regular plan. Many of the residences and business buildings abut on the stone cliffs. Houses perch on rocky shelves. In spite of being cramped into so small an area McGregor does not have a narrowed appearance for, at the wide end of the ravine, the great Mississippi—with its many islands, its tributary Wisconsin River, and the wide valleys on the other side—flows at its very door, in view from all parts of the town.

This is the gateway to what is locally known as the "Little Switzerland of America," a region of rocky hills and bluffs in northeastern Iowa that is strangely different from the rest of the gently rolling Iowa countryside. This area escaped the leveling influence of the successive glacial periods that converted the sedimentary rocks of the rest of the State into rolling prairies. From the southern boundary of Minnesota to Clinton the hills bordering the river rise from 300 to 600 feet. The steep bluffs are cut by many ravines, and rapid streams, spring-fed, empty every few miles into the Mississippi. The northern section of this strip of rugged country is almost 50 miles wide but south of McGregor it contracts to a narrow band extending only a few miles west of the river.

With the exception of Winneshiek County, to the northwest, no Iowa county has so many distinct geological formations as Clayton. Seven of the indurated rocks occur here while two drift sheets cover portions of the area. Deep ravines, presenting a cross section of the earth's surface several hundred feet thick, expose many different strata. The oldest—the St. Croix sandstone—appears in McGregor at the base of the bluffs near the riverfront. This stone, so soft that it can be carved with a pocket knife, is useless for building purposes. Above the buff and gray sandstone is a layer of limestone and surmounting this is St. Peter sandstone, the most noted outcropping of which is an exposure in Pictured Rocks Valley. Here the sandstone is infiltrated with iron oxide, showing many colors and shades. Shales and the Trenton and Galena limestones are later rock formations. The shales and limestones are rich in fossils. Geologists and paleontologists find this area a fruitful field for study. The state-owned parks—McGregor Heights, Point Ann, and Pike's Peak high above the river reveal a comprehensive section of the geological history of Iowa.

The steep slopes of the hills preclude tillage as it is practiced on the prairies and much of the terrain can only be reached by "timber roads," where some farmer has cut off the trees. A large portion of the land is not even pastured. As a consequence many of the native wild flowers which have been exterminated elsewhere still grow in this region. Several geographic types are included. On the uplands the remnants of the once vast prairie interlock in finger-like strips with the forest's margin. The rocky cliffs, sandy river terraces and alluvial flood plains as well as the springs, swamps, cool caverns, bogs and ox-bow lakes provide habitats for many kinds of plants.

In the leafless woodland, bloodroot, hepaticas, Dutchman's breeches, squirrel-corn, spring beauties, wild ginger, rue anemone, wood anemone, false anemone, bluebells, Greek Valerian, blue flax, purple and yellow violets occur. When leaves shade the forest floor, bellwort, Solomon's seal, false Solomon's seal, wild sarsaparilla, ginseng-cranesbill, columbine, blue cohosh, baneberry, mandrake and waterleaf are in flower. A number of species of ferns may be seen including the maidenhair, hairy lip, bracken, purple cliff, walking fern, golden polypody, interrupted, bladder, fragile, sensitive, Goldie's wood fern and the rattle snake fern.

Rare swamp herbage includes the skunk cabbage, marsh marigold, swamp cinquefoil and buckbean. Among the more common herbaceous marsh plants are arrowhead, sweet calamus, cat-tail, and wild rice. A profusion of wild aster, smartweeds, golden rods, sneeze weed, blue lobelia and sometimes cardinal lobelia colors the marshes in autumn. The American lotus may be seen during midsummer in the river cutoffs.

Among the shrubs of this region are the witch hazel, honeysuckles, wild black currant, gooseberries, wild crab, several species of thorn apple, the Carolina and meadow roses, the cedar, choke cherry, pin cherry, wild plum, several species of dogwood, prickly ash, arrowwood, smooth staghorn and fragrant sumac, ninebark, bittersweet, wahoo, hazel nut, bladdernut, buckhorn, New Jersey tea and moosewood.

The chief forest trees include oak, hickories, sugar and black maples, elms, basswood, poplars and numerous willows. Black birch, honey locust and Kentucky coffee bean also occur. Among the upland representatives of the northern evergreen forest are the white pine, rarely the balsam fir; in the swamps the low birch and the paper birch, the alder, the shining willow, the beaked willow, and the hoary willow. The bearberry, wintergreen and dwarf cornel are occasionally seen among the ground coverings.

As a result of the inaccessibility of part of the region, wild life is abundant. Much of the fauna once common in Iowa, and now hunted by man and driven by encroaching civilization, has found a natural refuge among the hills and on the islands. Wolves, foxes, lynx, bobcat, and an occasional deer, making his way over the ice from Wisconsin—in fact all the living things the Indians knew, with the exception of the buffalo, elk, and panther—are still to be found throughout the section. Fur bearing animals—muskrat, weasel, raccoon, and even an occasional otter—live along the river.

Three hundred species of birds have been listed in this region. A winter census in 1938 indicated there were long-eared owl, flicker, red-bellied woodpecker, hairy woodpecker, downy woodpecker, horned lark, blue jay, chickadee, white-breasted nuthatch, red-breasted nuthatch, brown creeper, starling, red-winged blackbird, gold finch, slate-colored junco, tree sparrow and cardinal in the area. Some rare birds are found—the ruffed grouse and huge pileated woodpecker in the deep woods, and the dainty cerulian warbler. The white American egret makes an occasional visit, and the short-billed marsh wren lives in the tall marsh grass along the lakes. Other rare birds, the duck hawk, the woodcock, and the bald eagle are also seen.

The Mississippi River is one of the main highways for waterfowl migration and, as a result, many are seen in the lakes, sloughs, and tributary streams along its course. While the natural nesting ground of most waterfowl is in Canada, many ducks and cranes and a few geese halt their northern migration when they reach the wide river bottoms. Many broods of teal and mallards are hatched here. Snipe find the shores of the river to their liking.

The Winnishiek Bottoms, as the islands between Lansing and Guttenberg are called, is a natural spawning ground for bass and for other game fish; and under the supervision of wardens the fishing in this region is steadily improving. Most of the local streams are of clear water, stocked by nature with speckled trout. Today several fish hatcheries—State and Federal—in Northeastern Iowa keep these creeks supplied with fry.

Much of the land along the Mississippi River, from a point starting at Bellevue, Iowa, and extending some 117 miles northward, beyond McGregor belongs to the Federal Government. Set aside as the Upper Mississippi River Wild Life Refuge protected wild life in the tract has increased in numbers since the establishment of the refuge and wood and marshland returned to its natural state. Because of its interesting geology, as well as its great supply of flora and fauna in the natural state, McGregor has proved to be an ideal site for the American School of Wild Life Protection held here in August.

THE MOUND BUILDERS

A prehistoric race of which we know almost nothing inhabited these hills and valleys even before the Indians. They left their record only in effigy and burial mounds, more numerous around McGregor than anywhere in the Middle West. Studies are now (1938) being conducted to determine the origin and habits of the mound builders, and these mounds are a major source of information. Classes in the study of these archeological remains are features of the Wild Life School.

Within 15 miles of McGregor are linear, conical, and effigy mounds, fortifications and earthworks. Cave shelters and village sites are still visible. The McGregor area is distinguished by the series of effigy and linear mounds—straight embankments 60 to 200 feet in length, a westward extension of the Wisconsin tradition. On the Iowa side the effigies lie in groups, or in connection with mounds of other types. Birds, usually with outstretched wings; a few bison; several long-tailed specimens, either panther or otter—not visible today; an antlered elk; and animals, like bears recumbent on their right sides and built up from a height of two to five feet, have been discovered. There are a few hundred of these effigies, and many hundreds of the conicals, with circular bases, but few linears. The conicals contain few relics, and the linears and effigies none.

All types of mounds have been known to contain burials, although it is probable that the majority of the prehistoric burials were in cemeteries, separate from the mounds. Human burials were of the secondary type, that is reburials of a few bones selected from primary burials, and redeposited without accompanying artifacts. The mounds doubtless were erected for a variety of reasons but, according to Dr. Charles R. Keyes, director of the State Archeological Survey, of the State Historical Society of Iowa, "The reasons are not clear."

Most of the mounds of this region are representative of the culture designated as Woodland. Of the five Iowa cultures this is the most common. The sites are generally one or two acres or less, located in timbered areas on stream terraces, ridges or knolls; often in sandy areas near streams, or lake margins; or in rock shelters. The pottery found in these mounds is uniformly grit-tempered, reddish or dull brown in color, rather soft, porous, crumbly, and unpolished, but ornamented with twisted cord impressions, stamped, punched, rouletted or occasionally incised designs. Chipped stones for knives, drills and scrapers show a high development among these peoples; as do the relics of ground stone work; but milling stones show little development. The work in bone and shell is also weakly devel-

oped. Burials found indicated those in the mounds were buried flexed or extended, while those in the cemeteries were generally flexed. Excavations of the mounds of the Woodland culture were mainly carried on in the areas farther away from McGregor.

Under the Federal Government's plan for the Upper Mississippi River Wild Life Refuge, most of these mounds came under the Government's protection, since they were in the undeveloped lands close to the water. Some areas, however, have been acquired by the State of Iowa. Although roads have not been developed to these mound groups, there are rough woodland paths that lead to the locations. Many of the mounds are still so covered with underbrush and native timber that they are not recognizable by the casual student; few of them are marked, but all are accessible.

There are seven important mound groups in this area. The Adams group, one and one-quarter miles south of the mouth of the Turkey River, on a high ridge overlooking the Mississippi, contains four, three conical and one in the shape of a huge woman, 70 by 145 feet. One-quarter mile north of this group is a group containing a long-tailed animal with tail raised in the air, and at its heels a stubby-tailed quadruped. Effigies of animals are always in profile on the right side, nose downstream. Reptiles and birds seen from above or below also face the water. The third is the Turkey River group, one-half mile along the ridge between the Turkey and the Mississippi flood plain. Twenty-nine ancient earthworks are included, all enclosed with a ditch and ramparts.

The Sny Magill group, on a terrace of the Mississippi River six miles south of McGregor, includes 94 mounds, two of them bird effigies with 170-foot wing spread. "This is probably the largest group of mounds remaining in the effigy-mound area and is one of the largest extant in the United States," says Charles R. Keyes. The Jennings-Leiphart group, of two linear, three birds, and a procession of ten bear effigies, all strung out one-half mile, lies two miles north of McGregor. On a high bluff near the mouth of the Yellow River, north of McGregor, are 40 conical, linear and effigy mounds. The largest bear effigy known here is 70 feet wide, 40 feet long, and five feet high. The Fish Farm group, north of Harper's Ferry, about six miles south of Lansing, is the last of the assemblage along the Mississippi in Northeastern Iowa. Here 30 mounds are clustered on one acre.

HISTORY

The first white men to see what is now the McGregor region were Pere Marquette and Louis Joliet who were exploring the West for the French. On June 17, 1673, as their canoes threaded the channel between the islands in the delta of the "Ouisconsin" River, the Mississippi was hidden beyond the gold and green of the willows. The canoe passed out into the broad river and what is now Pike's Peak and McGregor Heights rose before them, more than 500 feet above the water. Marquette reported that at the junction of the two rivers, "From time to time we came upon monstrous fish, one of which struck our Canoe with such violence that I Thought that it was a great tree about to break the Canoe to pieces. On another occasion we saw on The water a monster with the head of a tiger, a sharp nose like that of a wild cat, with whiskers straight, Erect ears; The head was gray and the Neck was quite black."

Troops from France soon followed these explorers and, by 1684, Nicholas Perrot was building Fort Nicholas near the junction of the two rivers. While it was not until more than a century later that the whites crossed the river in any considerable number, there is no doubt but that sporadic trading posts were operated at various points in Iowa soon after the first traders reached the Wisconsin shore. In 1690 Perrot had trading posts a short distance south of Dubuque, and the lead district was for a century known as "Perrot's Mines."

Like Pere Marquette, Peter Pond, trading in the region in 1773, was amazed by the size of the fish in the Mississippi and reported that his party caught three at the mouth of the Wisconsin River on the Iowa side. The smallest of these weighed 75 pounds and one of them had a head 16 inches between the eyes. An argument arose as to how many men it would take to eat one of these fish and 12 of the men asserted that they could eat it in a single meal. They made good their boast and Pond says that "Thay all Declard thay felt the Beater of thare Meale Nor did I perceive that Eney of them weare Sick or complained."

In 1805 Lieutenant Zebulon Pike made a survey of this region and recommended the following points as alternate sites for the establishment of a frontier fort: the town of Prairie du Chien, which had been established in 1785, and the Iowa hills on the opposite side of the river. For technical military reasons the former position was chosen and in 1816 Fort Crawford was erected.

Basil Giard, one of the men who laid out the present town of Prairie du Chien, began cultivation of a few acres in what is now Clayton County, Iowa, in 1785. He built a cabin and

there is some evidence that he lived here. By 1794 he had a hired man on the place, and was raising a little corn and some livestock. Giard made a claim on October 15, 1800, for a tract of land—size unspecified—which he had occupied “since 15 years.” The claim was granted temporarily on November 20 of the same year and he was ordered to submit a report on the size of the property upon which he had settled.

It was not until 1807 that Giard had William Russell survey and plat the land, an area about a mile and a half wide and extending six miles east and west. In the meantime this territory had passed from Spanish control to French, and finally to the United States. Despite the fact that these two powers had agreed to recognize Spanish grants, the land office in St. Louis denied Giard’s claim. However in 1816 the United States finally confirmed his right to the property and, in 1854, the first patent to lands in Iowa was conceded to his heirs. The Giard holdings comprised much of the property upon which McGregor and Marquette now stand.

During the 1830’s Lieutenant Colonel Zachary Taylor was commandant at Fort Crawford and Lieutenant Jefferson Davis was one of his officers. Davis was in charge of obtaining lumber for the fort, with a sawmill, at Yellow River six miles north of McGregor, placed under his supervision. Later Davis married Taylor’s daughter. Taylor became President of the United States in 1849 and his son-in-law became President of the Confederate States 12 years later.

Before the coming of the white man, the Yellow River marked the boundary of the Sac and Fox territory. To the north of this river lived their hereditary enemies, the Sioux. In 1830, through the efforts of the United States Government, the tribes signed a treaty, and a 40-mile strip extending to the northwest, its southern boundary starting at the mouth of the Yellow River, was declared neutral ground. In 1833 the Winnebago Indians were moved from Wisconsin into this area and were settled at an agency on the Yellow River near the present village of Ion.

The present site of McGregor was originally known to the white men as Coulee des Sioux, the name bestowed upon it by an early French missionary. In 1836 a party of immigrants, wishing to cross from Prairie du Chien and finding no ferry, procured an old flatboat from the officers at Fort Crawford. Alexander McGregor, a recent arrival, helped to repair the boat for the trip and, realizing the necessity of a ferry at this point, determined upon operating one. Subsequently his point of contact with the Iowa shore became known as “McGregor’s Landing.” The enterprise was not immediately profitable, but

when Iowa was opened to white settlement and pioneers began to come into the country, rich with timber and water power, the ferry prospered and brought thousands of dollars into the pockets of its owner. George Catlin, famous as a painter of Indian life, came to the country in 1837 and painted a picture of Iowa's Pikes Peak.

In 1840 the Government moved the Winnebago Indians to Fort Atkinson, and the soldiers opened a new trail to the Fort. Friction had developed between McGregor and the American Fur Company, and that organization used its influence to have the road leave the river at the upper ferry landing—a short distance north of Marquette. This road was built without orders from Washington and the influence used was free whiskey for the soldiers building the trail, and carriages for the officers.

But McGregor's Landing grew and prospered. The town was surveyed in 1846 and, by 1850, began to take on the appearance of a thriving river town. For five days in 1856 it is reported that 13 river boats stopped at McGregor and landed 3,621 packages of merchandise. In that same year the first steam ferry between McGregor and Prairie du Chien tied up at McGregor. In those days the town, with hundreds of transients in addition to its own 800, was like other booming river towns; gambling houses and saloons were wide open.

The place became an important grain shipping center and in 1865 it was a common sight to see over a thousand wagon loads of wheat on the streets—brought in from points as far as 200 miles west—awaiting purchase by the 20 grain buyers who made headquarters here. Diamond Jo Reynolds, one of the largest buyers, operated a fleet of steamboats to carry the grain he purchased to his mills at Fulton, Illinois. From this beginning there later developed the Diamond Jo line of packets, one of the last to ply the Upper Mississippi River.

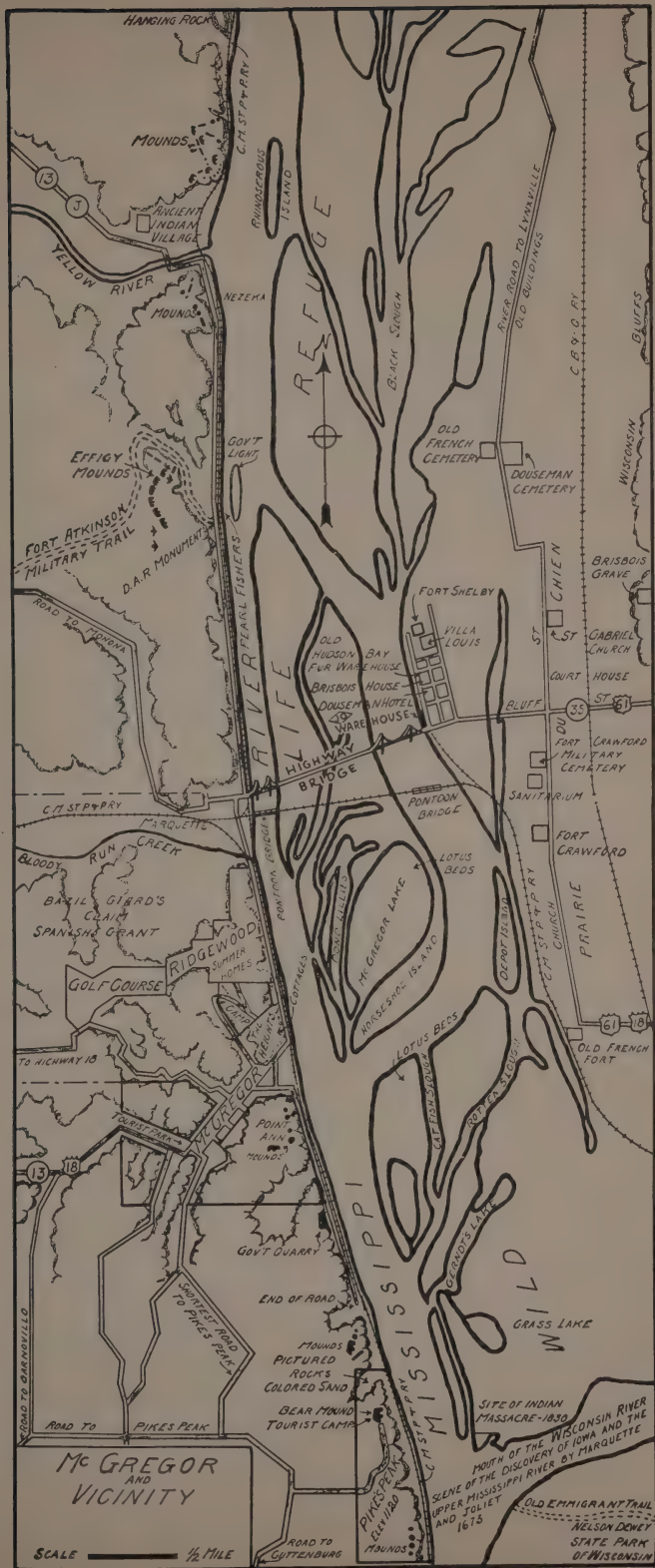
In 1871 a railroad was built along the southern bank of the river and, with its coming, steamboat traffic began to wane. Rails were extended into the interior of the State and the 200-mile haul by ox team was a thing of the past. McGregor developed into a trading point for its citizens and nearby farmers. Augustus Ringling (Rungeling), father of seven sons, was a harness maker in McGregor from 1860 to 1872. The sons, John, Al, Otto, Charles, Alf, T. and Henry, gave one of the "first performances" of their circus in the town.

In 1893 a Muscatine, Iowa, button factory put clam fishermen to work in this vicinity. Because the small bi-valves were not edible and had previously had no commercial value, they had not been disturbed and hundreds of thousands of them

covered the river bed. As a result, an industrious clammer could easily catch a ton or more a day. News of the rich beds spread and soon fishermen from other parts of the country swarmed into northeastern Iowa. It is said that at the height of the boom 500 clam boats were at work within a few miles of McGregor.

Further impetus was given to clamming after W. H. C. Elwell answered an advertisement in an eastern newspaper for fresh water pearls. He purchased a few of these from the clam-mers and sold them at surprisingly high figures. As word of his sales spread, the fishermen were spurred to new activities. Many of the pearls equalled the South Sea Island variety in luster and in beauty of color, and it was not uncommon to sell fine specimens for prices ranging from \$100 to \$1,000. Twelve thousand dollars was perhaps the highest price ever paid for a Mississippi River pearl in this vicinity. Pearls too small to be sold for other purposes were marketed under the name of "seed pearls." These were used in ornamentaing lace and embroidery. The concentrated raid on the clam beds produced the inevitable results and by 1903 the number of clams had so decreased that a daily catch of 500 pounds was considered satisfactory. In a few years the clam beds were nearly depleted.

In 1918 through the efforts of an Iowa City minister a school of wild life study was begun. College professors, students of natural life, and scientists were attracted to this American School of Wild Life Protection. During the 1920's the Chicago, Milwaukee, Saint Paul and Pacific Railroad moved its heavy freight repair shops to Marquette, drawing many men to the vicinity. When in 1924 the Government created the Upper Mississippi River Wild Life Refuge, purchasing many acres of land in this region, McGregor received wide publicity which was greatly augmented through the development of the Wild Life School. The hills and rivers about still attract the original inhabitants of the area, for a few Winnebago Indians return from time to time to camp along the river bottoms of the old hunting ground.



POINTS OF INTEREST

1. The activities of the AMERICAN SCHOOL OF WILD LIFE PROTECTION center in the AUDITORIUM on MCGREGOR HEIGHTS (*hotel accommodations; cottages, \$12.50 to \$25.00 a week; free camping ground*), overlooking the town from the north. West of the intersection of Main and A Sts. is a crushed rock road, marked, which leads to the Heights, *1 m.*

During the summer of 1918 a meeting of the Iowa Conservation Association was held in McGregor. At the conclusion of the two-day session, Rev. George Bennett induced several scientists to remain and accompany him on nature hikes. These were so successful that the following year this group brought in other interested persons and five days were spent in attending lectures and making field trips. At that time it was decided to make the gathering an annual affair. From this small beginning grew what is now known as The American School of Wild Life Protection, the first of its kind in the United States and the prototype of all similar schools that have since been established.

Sponsored by the State Conservation Commission and by the citizens of McGregor the school is operated by a non-profit corporation. College professors, conservation experts, and other recognized authorities comprise the faculty; most of these teachers contribute their time and services free. Among the subjects taught are geology, botany, ornithology, archeology, zoology, entomology, astronomy, American Indian lore, forestry, American history, photography, conservation, and ecology. The curriculum, however, varies from year to year.

During the school period special nature study excursions on the Mississippi River are arranged. The Pictured Rocks Valley, the Lotus Beds, and the Winneshiek Bottoms are places visited. A bird study trip to Lover's Lane, a slough two miles south of McGregor on the Wisconsin side, begins at 4:30 in the morning. As many as 117 varieties of birds, ranging in size from the tiny wren to the eagle, have been observed within an hour on one of these trips. The botany trip takes the student to Pictured Rocks Valley where the plant life is entirely different from that on the islands; thus a variety not usually found within such a small area can be observed on the tour, which visits both places.

From the 200-FOOT TOWER (*admission 10c*), at the summit, there is an unobstructed view of the river. With the aid of the telescope at the top of the tower three States can be seen. RIDGEWOOD, a summer colony, is reached by a lane, L., at the top of the heights. Adjacent to Ridgewood is the MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE and, also, situated on this hill is a SILVER FOX FARM (*private*).

2. ELWELL AQUARIUM, in the Elwell store on Main St., contains specimens of Mississippi River aquatic life. Here also is a collection of mounted fish. A large sign clearly marks the building. Elwell is one of the world's largest dealers in fresh water pearls. Lamps and other oddities manufactured from clam shells, curios, and bottles in which colored sand from Pictured Rocks is arranged in pictorial designs are on display.

The art of creating pictures with colored sands was developed in McGregor by Andrew Clemens. The grains were placed in bottles and arranged in pictorial designs visible through the glass. Degrees of shading are achieved and elaborate scenes are reconstructed with almost mechanical precision. Since his death in 1894 the work of Clemens has never been duplicated and today this kind of sand painting is a lost art. Samples of the work are on display at the Kramer Clothing Store, Kranert's Shoe Store, and the First State Savings Bank.

Another type of sand painting was developed by A. W. Van Cleave. Grains of the colored sand were glued upon panes of glass which were superimposed upon each other.

3. POINT ANN, another State-owned area, immediately south of the city, is a favorite hiking place. It is inaccessible by automobile. Unmarked trails wind through the hills with broad views of the river through the trees. Below the brow of the bluff, visible only from the river, nature has shaped a rock into a well-defined INDIAN HEAD. When observed from a moving boat it is said that seven different aspects of the face can be seen.

There is a story that \$30,000 in gold coin is buried somewhere on the Point. This money represents the payroll for Federal Troops which is said to have been buried in 1851 during an Indian scare and never recovered. Gold pieces dated before this time have frequently been found on the hill.

4. PIKE'S PEAK, towering 540 feet above the river, is about two miles south of McGregor. At the S. end of Main St. is a Catholic Church. Here take State 340 to the Park. Road signs indicate the route. Shelter houses, tables, benches and outdoor fireplaces recently constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps, are available for picnics.

The bluff was named for Lieutenant Zebulon Pike who visited this region in 1805. This was the original hill to be known by his name. It was not until the following year that the larger Pike's Peak towering over Manitou, Colorado, was discovered.

The view from the summit is one of the finest on the Upper Mississippi. The wide valley of the river is visible for 20 miles to the north and ten miles to the south. Immediately across the Mississippi is the mouth of the Wisconsin River—the old pathway to Lake Michigan and Montreal. Below the Wisconsin the rocky ramparts of Nelson Dewey State Park are seen. Several miles north the old settlement of Prairie du Chien is identifiable by its church spires.

Several INDIAN MOUNDS including a well preserved bear effigy mound are on the hilltop.

Marked trails winding down the wooded hillsides lead to PICTURED ROCKS (also accessible by a boat from McGregor). In this, one of the deepest ravines in the Mississippi Valley, is an out-cropping of St. Peter Sandstone. Forty-two shades of sand on the bluff's side give the rocks their name. A spring-fed brook tumbles through the ravine, where unusual waterfalls, moss-covered rocks and rare plants add to the beauty of this natural wonderland.

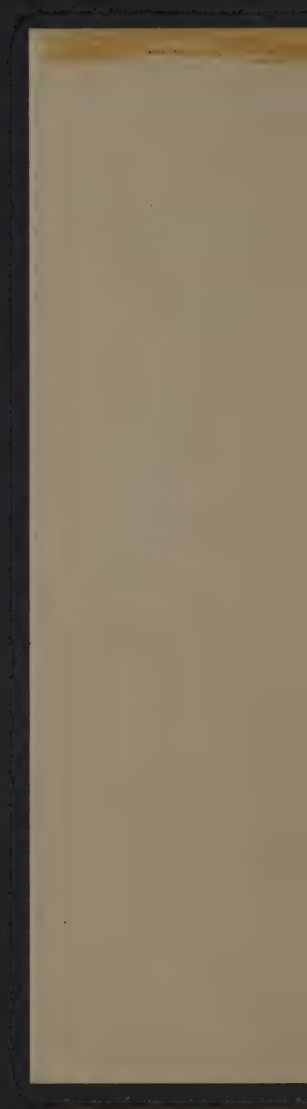


WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

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TOUR NO. 1

McGregor-Postville-Waukon-Decorah-West Union-Postville-McGregor.

US 18, Ia 51, Ia 9, US 52, Ia 11, US 18.

McGregor-McGregor, 135 m.

Paved to Postville, bituminous surfaced and paved to Waukon, paved to Decorah, paved to Calmar, bituminous surfaced to West Union, and paved to McGregor.

West from McGregor on US 18 the road passes through wooded hills, narrow valleys, and steep rocky ravines.

At 6 m. is Giard. Here is the ALLERT BIRD MUSEUM (*admission 10c*), a collection of 800 mounted birds, mostly native to this region.

At 8 m. is the junction with an improved road.

R. on this road 4 m. is WOMPI CAVE (*admission 35c, guides*), a series of underground passages and caverns lined with stalactites and stalagmites. Winding stairways descend 225 feet to a subterranean lake.

At 8.5 m. is Froelich with a crossroads country store.

At 15 m., in MONONA (1,215 alt., 1,163 pop.), R. one block from the highway, is the PUFAPHL COLLECTION OF WOOD CARVINGS (*admission 10c*). Gust Pufahl, a retired farmer, has devoted his leisure to carving intricate objects from wood. His collection represents the work of 16 years. Of special interest is a 20-foot log chain complete with hook. This, like the other exhibits, is carved from a single block of wood and no pegs or glue are used. Also included in the collection are examples of miniature carving. Tiny scissors which open and close as easily as metal shears are only one-half inch in length. A set of furniture, mounted on cardboard and consisting of two chairs, a table, a wash stand, a rocking chair, and a cradle containing the figure of a baby, has been carved from a single match stick.

At 19 m. is LUANA (1,128 alt., 186 pop.), a small farming community.

At 26 m. is POSTVILLE (1,192 alt., 1,060 pop.), an industrial and agricultural center. It was settled in 1841 by J. Post for whom the town is named. In 1849 a post office was established, half way between Forts Crawford and Atkinson.

At Postville is the junction with Ia 51; R. on Ia 51.

At 28 m. is the OLD STONE HOUSE. This three-story structure, built in 1849, is maintained by Allamakee County and, together with the grounds surrounding it, comprises the only county park in the State. The house of stone, 22 by 40 feet, has three stories in front and two at the rear which sets back into the hillside.

At 44 m. is WAUKON (1,216 alt., 2,526 pop.), the seat of Allamakee County and a trading center for farmers. Seven unfailing springs attracted G. C. Shattuck to this spot in 1849 where he built a mill. In addition to an annual county fair, Corn Day sponsored by the local business men is celebrated each year. The farmers from the surrounding country are invited to the town, business houses are closed and free entertainment and lunch are provided.

In Waukon is the junction with Ia 9; L. on Ia 9.

At 64 m. is DECORAH (875 alt., 4,581 pop.), seat of Wineshiek County, occupying the valley of the Upper Iowa River. An important point for the shipment of stock and butter, the town is also the trading center for a large number of Norwegians who live in the area and have established a college here. Decorah was named for Chief Waukon Decorah, an Indian who aided the white men during the Black Hawk War.

The NORWEGIAN AMERICAN MUSEUM (*open daily, 1:30-5:30, admission 10c*), on the edge of the business district, was formally dedicated in 1933 to the task of creating an historical museum illustrating the life, culture, and conditions that surrounded the Norwegian people from the time they first set foot in America. In the center of the main floor of the museum is a four-room house of the type that predominated in Norway in the 1850's.

LUTHER COLLEGE, at the northwestern edge of town, is the oldest Norwegian college in America, celebrating its 75th anniversary in 1936, at which time it became co-educational. Previous to that the school was set aside to train young men for the ministry. In 1937 there were 431 pupils enrolled. Bachelor degrees in Divinity, Sciences and Arts are offered.

The DECORAH PALISADES PARKWAY, a scenic drive covering 15 miles in and around the city, is clearly marked. On this route are PHELPS PARK, TWIN SPRINGS PARK, the DECORAH ICE CAVE, SIEVERT'S SPRINGS PARK, and other points of interest.

In Decorah is the junction with US 52; L. on US 52.

At 73 m. is the junction with Ia 325.

R. on this road 7 m. is SPILLVILLE, a small Bohemian village on the west bank of the Turkey River. The town centers around a square with a monument to World War soldiers. The two-story brick house on Main St. was the HOME OF ANTONIN DVORAK, noted composer who hid from civilization here for awhile in 1893. It is said that while strolling along the banks of the Turkey he conceived many of the beautiful melodies that he used in his later works—*Humoresque*, *The E Flat Major Quintette*, and his *New World Symphony*. Dvorak frequently played the organ at St. Wenceslaus Church, which follows the design of the cathedral at Guttenburg.

At Spillville is the junction of Ia 325 and a graveled road marked "To Bily Brothers Clocks"; R. on this road.

At 13 m. is the museum housing the BILY BROTHERS CLOCKS (*admission 10c*). These clocks are constructed entirely of wood and hundreds of species have been used in their construction. Elaborate designs which represent a variety of historical, religious and otherwise significant scenes or incidents are carved into the clocks. Mechanical figures perform at regular intervals.

At 75 m. is CALMAR (1,262 alt., 915 pop.), originally known as Marysville, a favorite meeting place of the soldiers from Fort Atkinson on payday. This is a railroad center populated for the most part by Bohemians.

In Calmar is the junction of US 52 with Ia 11 and Ia 24. R. from Calmar on Ia 24.

At 5 m. is FORT ATKINSON (1,021 alt., 305 pop.). On a high bluff in Fort Atkinson State Park is old Fort Atkinson, named in honor of Gen. Henry Atkinson who selected the site. The fort was erected by the Federal Government in 1840 in the "Neutral Ground" and is the only fort ever erected for the purpose of protecting one Indian tribe from another. Capt. Isaac Lynde with Company F of the Fifth Infantry, a detachment of 82 officers and men, first occupied the fort. Later a company of U. S. Dragoons arrived, raising the force to 160 men. During the Mexican War the regulars were withdrawn and volunteer troops called in. For many years after its abandonment the buildings were allowed to fall into ruin. Today, part of the two-story limestone barracks, tumbled to the ground, two restored block-houses and a magazine house remain. One blockhouse stands on an elevation overlooking the countryside.

R. from Calmar on Ia 11.

At 80 m. is FESTINA, a small Bohemian village. The church of the parish of Our Lady of Seven Dolors was erected in 1863 and is one of the oldest churches in Iowa where regular services are still conducted. This was the only Catholic parish in the State whose original beginning was an Indian mission.

In Festina is the junction with an unimproved county road; R. on this road.

At 2.5 m. is ST. ANTHONY'S CHAPEL, the smallest church in the State. A German immigrant promised to build a church in honor of St. Anthony but before his vow could be fulfilled he died. However, the descendants carried out the promise and constructed the chapel. The dimensions are 12 by 16 feet, and only eight persons can be accommodated.

At 92 m. is WEST UNION (1,107 alt., 2,056 pop.), originally called Knob Prairie. West Union is the seat of Fayette County and a station for the Iowa Highway Patrol. A county fair is held here annually in August.

In West Union is the junction with US 18; L. on US 18.

At 101 m. is CLERMONT (866 alt., 631 pop.), a trading center for farmers. Immediately east of the town, overlooking the highway, is MANTAUKE, Governor William Larrabee's home, a large frame structure. The Clermont Public School, Lincoln Park, and the David B. Henderson Statue are gifts of Governor Larrabee to the community. Immediately adjacent to the governor's estate is a sorghum mill where sorghum syrup is manufactured.

From this point the road winds past lines of towering pine trees and along the gentle rolling countryside are some of the most modern and productive farms in northeastern Iowa.

At 109 m. is POSTVILLE (*see above*).

At 135 m. is MCGREGOR.

TOUR No. 2

McGregor - Marquette - Prairie du Chien (Wis.) - Lynxville (Wis.) - Lansing - Waukon - Marquette - McGregor.

US 18, Wis. CO F, Wis. 35, Ia 9, Ia 13.

McGregor-McGregor, 86 m.

The tour covers graveled side roads in Wisconsin, close to the Mississippi River. On the Iowa side Ia 9 is paved and Ia 13 graveled. Ia 9 climbs from the floor of the valley of the Mississippi and then skirts the high plateau, coming down gradually to the low ground again.

North from McGregor on US 18.

At 2 m. is MARQUETTE (629 alt., 814 pop.), a railroad center. The population is largely made up of employees of the railroad company.

Across the Mississippi at Marquette is the largest of the few PONTOON RAILROAD BRIDGES in the world. At this point there are two channels, separated by about 1.5 miles of islands and sloughs. Most of the bridge is on a pile trestle, but in each of the channels there is a pontoon that can be floated open to allow boats to pass. The tracks on the pontoons are supported on a cribbing of blocks resting on jackscrews and as the river rises and falls the level of the track is raised or lowered to compensate for the change. As there is a difference of 22 feet between the two stages of the river here the level of the tracks must be continually altered to keep the floating section at the same elevation as the trestles. In the eastern channel the pontoon, when dropped downstream, gives a 160-foot opening, while in the main channel on the Iowa side the opening is 340 feet.

At 2.5 m. the highway crosses the Mississippi on a suspension bridge (*70c car and driver one way; \$1.15 car and driver round trip; 10c each additional passenger*). The bridge is built in two sections each extending from the shore to an island in mid-stream. From the western span there is a fine view of the Mississippi and the towering Iowa hills. Below, in the slow swirling water a huge bed of American Lotus blooms during the month of August.

At 4 m. is PRAIRIE DU CHIEN (3,943 pop.), an important center in the development of the early Northwest Territory. In this region lived a tribe of Fox Indians whose chief was called "Dog" (*Chien* in French). It was from this chieftain that the town took its name. Traders made this the center for the Upper Mississippi fur trade. In 1766 a visitor reported that

Prairie du Chien was "the great mart where all the adjacent tribes and even those who inhabit the remote branches of the Mississippi, annually assemble about the latter end of May, bringing with them the furs to dispose of to the traders."

Today the city is outstanding for its teachers' college, special school for boys, and other educational institutions.

The DIAMOND JO WAREHOUSES, Black Hawk Ave. and the River Front, are relics of early steamboating days when as many as a dozen boats, each carrying up to 10,000 bushels of wheat, waited to unload their cargoes for shipment east by rail. One of these warehouses is now used by the Milwaukee Railroad as a storehouse for undelivered freight.

The MICHAEL BRISBOIS HOUSE, Brisbois St. and the River Front, built in 1815, is one of the oldest stone houses in Wisconsin. The two-story, rectangular structure is still in good condition. The fireplaces, staircases and inside woodwork are in a remarkable state of preservation and the root cellar has been kept as it was originally built in 1815. Michael Brisbois came to Prairie du Chien in 1781 and became a prominent and influential citizen and fur trader. The house has remained in the Brisbois family for five generations.

The VILLA LOUIS (*fee 25c, guide*), north limits of the city on the River Front, was the frontier home of Hercules Dousman, a fur trader and one of the wealthiest men in the United States. The mansion was erected in 1843 on an Indian mound, the site occupied in 1813 by Fort Shelby.

The Villa Louis is probably the best example extant of an early midwestern mansion—the type of residence that by its extent and massiveness typified the wealth of its owner. The original furnishings purchased by the first millionaire in the new country are still preserved in the house. Spinning and weaving apparatus, candle molds, clothing and furniture, and old books in an extensive library are kept within the building. The private chapel remains as it was almost a century ago.

The OLD MILITARY CEMETERY, on Beaumont Road between Cass and Webster Streets, was first used in 1829 as a burial ground for the army officers and members of their families who died while stationed at Fort Crawford. After the withdrawal of the troops it lay neglected for half a century. In 1904 Congress appropriated money for its restoration and many of the bodies of privates who had been buried elsewhere on the garrison grounds were removed to the cemetery. By a special act of Congress, headstones were placed on the graves of these unidentified soldiers.

The restored FORT CRAWFORD HOSPITAL, Beaumont Road in the south part of the city, was originally built in 1831. The second Fort Crawford, built of stone and succeeding a fort of the same name built of wood, was abandoned in 1856. In time all of the buildings, except the ruined hospital, had been torn down. In 1933 this hospital building was reconstructed to resemble its prototype as much as possible. The gray stone structure, a story and a half high, is now used as a library and historic museum.

At Prairie du Chien is the junction with Wis. CO F, graveled; L. on Wis. CO F.

At 5.5 m. (L.) is the old FRENCH CEMETERY. Joseph Rolette (1781-1842), a prominent fur trader, is buried here. It is probable that no other trader did more than he to build up the immense fortune of John Jacob Astor. Across the road from the old French cemetery, on Mount Pleasant, the highest peak of Prairie du Chien, is CALVARY CEMETERY. Here is buried Michael Brisbois. Here also are the graves of Hercules Dousman and his family. Dousman was the successor of Rolette in control of the American Fur Company.

From here the route follows the valley along the shores of the Mississippi. With the combination of limestone bluffs to the east and water and islands to the west, the scenery along this highway provides a constant series of surprises.

At 20 m. is LYNXVILLE (230 pop.). **1608808**

At Lynxville is the junction with Wis. 35; L. from Wis. CO F on Wis. 35.

At 33 m. is the road to the Black Hawk Bridge (*50c car and driver one way; 10c each additional passenger*); L. from Wis. 35 on this graveled road.

At 36.5 m. the route crosses the Mississippi into Iowa.

At 37 m. is LANSING (630 alt., 1,321 pop.), named for Lansing, Michigan. Live fish are bought here from fishermen who seine them from the Mississippi. The fish are fattened on shelled corn and shipped in carload lots to eastern markets. A large privately owned fish pool at Lansing which accommodates as many as 250,000 fish is an unusual feature of the commercial life of the town. The town is at the base of Mount Hosmer, a sheer bluff rising abruptly from the river to a height of 500 feet. Walling it on the south is Mt. Ida and Lovers' Leap, a 400-foot precipice overlooking the river.

In Lansing at the bridge the highway changes to Ia 9.

West from Lansing on Ia 9.

At 55 m. is WAUKON (*see Tour 1*), the junction with Ia 13; L. on Ia 13.

The road follows the ridge between Paint Creek and Yellow River. The topography of the Yellow River Valley is one of the roughest in this part of the country. Most of the streams offer good trout fishing. As the road approaches the Mississippi it descends into a deep valley.

At 78 m. the road crosses the OLD MILITARY TRAIL leading to Fort Atkinson. At the monument that marks the military trail, a path (R.) leads to the top of a hill—a distance of 300 yards—where there is one of the largest groups of effigy mounds in the vicinity.

At 80 m. is MARQUETTE.

At 82 m. is MCGREGOR.



